

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending.

The claims have been further amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error in the Amendment of October 1, 2007 in indicating that the status of the claim was as "Previously Presented" when amendments were made without indicating same by underlining and strikethrough text. Claim 1 and the previously amended dependent claims 2-10 have been revised above to return the claims to the form and scope examined in the Office Action of May 31, 2007.

Return of an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 Form filed August 7, 2007, pursuant to MPEP § 609, is requested.

Remarks of the Amendment filed October 1, 2007 are repeated hereinafter as relevant to the above claims.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-16 over Umemoto (JP 2001-213915), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of the following distinguishing comments.

Initially, the applicants note the first named inventor of the cited document is believed to be "Yoda" and the Examiner is requested to appreciate that U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0010378, published January 16, 2003, claims benefit of the cited JP 2001-213915 and is believed to be equivalent thereto. Consideration of this English equivalent of (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0010378), by the Examiner is requested however as the Examiner has provided an apparent detailed

analysis of JP 2001-213915, the Examiner is believed to have perhaps already considered the same.

The present invention provides a photovoltaic module subassembly 20 having its front and rear surfaces sandwiched by a pair of plate members of resin 23 and 24, which, the applicants believe to be described in the specification at page 10, line 21 to page 11, line 2, is relatively large in rigidity and also adequately flexible, and corresponds to a support member maintaining the geometry of subassembly 20 after subassembly 20 is fabricated. Accordingly, the pair of plate members of resin 23 and 24 are desirably of a thickness of a few millimeters. This can eliminate the necessity of bonding and thus fixing subassembly 20 to any of the paired plates of glass 11 and 12 in assembling subassembly 20 to the sealed insulating glass.

In contrast, the applicants believe that JP2001-213915 discloses a solar cell module subassembly having its front and rear surfaces sandwiched by a pair of weatherproofed transparent film 5. The applicants believe that the film thickness of the transparent film 5 of the cited art will be on the order of a few micrometers, which would not exhibit the supporting function of maintaining the geometry of the subassembly of the subassembly after it is fabricated. Accordingly, when the subassembly of the cited art is assembled to sealed insulating glass, the subassembly of the cited art must be fixed to one of the paired plates of glass with transparent adhesive tape 6, as shown in Figures 1 or 3.

The applicants submit that the presently claimed requirement for plate members is believed to define over the cited art. That is, the Examiner is urged to appreciate that the present claims, such as claim 1, provide a module containing first and second

“plate” members of resin adjacent to the light receiving and non-light receiving surfaces of the photovoltaic cells of the module. The specification, including the drawings, describe, for example, a photovoltaic subassembly (20 of the drawings) having its front and rear surfaces adjacent to or sandwiched by a pair of plate members of the above-mentioned “plate” members of resin (23 and 24 in the drawings). These “plate” members are further described in the present specification, such as at page 10, line 21 through page 11, line 2, as being relatively rigid and also adequately flexible and to provide support to maintain the geometry of the subassembly (20) after fabrication of the subassembly. The “plates” of the claims eliminate the necessity of bonding and thus fixing subassembly (2) to the sealed insulating glass.

In contrast, the cited Yoda is understood to disclose a solar cell module subassembly having its front and rear surfaces sandwiched by a pair of weatherproofed transparent film (5), which does not provide support and maintain the geometry of the subassembly after it is fabricated. Accordingly, when the subassembly is assembled to sealed insulating glass, the subassembly of Yoda must be fixed to one of paired plates of glass with transparent adhesive tape (6), as shown in Figures 1 or 3 of the cited reference.

The claimed invention therefore is believed to be patentable over the cited document and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-16 over JP 2001-213915 is requested.

The Section 103 rejection of claim 5 over JP 2001-213915 and Yaba (U.S. Patent No. 5,059,254), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested as claim 5 which depends from claim 1 and includes all the details

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thereof, includes the requirement that the subassembly contains the "plates" described above. The module of claim 5 therefore would not have been obvious in view of the combination of JP 2001-213915 and Yaba. Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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